UNITED NATIONS **E**

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/1997/83
20 June 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Substantive session of 1997
Geneva, 30 June-25 July 1997
Item 7 of the provisional agenda*

REPORTS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES

Letter dated 6 June 1997 from the President of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund to the President of the Economic and Social Council

I have the honour to write to you in my capacity as President of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund with reference to the Board's decision 97/14 (see DP/1997/22), which was recently adopted at the 1997 annual session.

In decision 97/14, the Executive Board noted with appreciation the proposal of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund to undertake a review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.

The Executive Board invited me, as its President, to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session, through the forthcoming session of the Economic and Social Council, the proposal for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Conference, for the consideration of the Assembly and subsequent decision on the process and modalities.

It is through this letter that I seek your assistance in furthering this request. I would therefore appreciate it if this question could be considered at the forthcoming session of the Economic and Social Council under agenda item 7, entitled "Reports, conclusions and recommendations of subsidiary bodies".

* E/1997/100.

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It is hoped that the Council could recommend that the question be taken up by the Assembly at its fifty-second session, perhaps in the context of sub-item 99 (c) entitled "Population and development", which has been included in the agenda of the fifty-second session in accordance with paragraph 17 of Assembly resolution 51/176.

(Signed) Hans LUNDBORG
President
UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board

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20 June 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Substantive session of 1997
Geneva, 30 June-25 July 1997
Item 6 (g) of the provisional agenda*

COORDINATION, PROGRAMME AND OTHER QUESTIONS: CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS

Letter dated 19 June 1997 from the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences to the President of the Economic and Social Council

In response to the invitation of the Economic and Social Council set forth in its decision 1988/103 of 5 February 1988, the Committee on Conferences met on 16 June 1997 to review the provisional calendar of conferences and meetings for 1998 and 1999 in the economic, social and related fields, as contained in document E/1997/L.18. The Committee welcomed the opportunity to review the provisional calendar of conferences and meetings and to provide, as appropriate, its recommendations thereon to the Council.

In introducing the provisional calendar, the representative of the Secretariat noted a number of amendments to the calendar. Moreover, he referred to the question of the biennialization of conferences and meetings under paragraph 2 (f) (ii) of Council resolution 1988/77 of 29 July 1988. In that regard, he drew the attention of the Committee to several subsidiary bodies that had been mandated by the Council to annualize their sessions, which was a cause for concern in view of the aforementioned resolution, the limited services available, and the fact that annualization did not result in sessions of shorter duration. The Committee on Conferences again wishes to encourage the Council to continue its consideration of the biennialization of meetings of its subsidiary bodies.

The Committee also wishes to encourage the Council to continue its review of the calendar as a whole in the context of its review of the mandates, composition, functions and working methods of its functional commissions and expert groups and bodies.

* E/1997/100.

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The Committee on Conferences noted that, in accordance with paragraph 2 (f) (i) of Council resolution 1988/77, the Secretary-General would ensure that meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Council ended at least eight weeks before the session of the Council at which their reports were to be considered. The Committee noted that in the provisional calendar submitted by the Secretary-General, the subsidiary bodies of the Council were, to the extent possible, scheduled to end their 1998-1999 sessions at least eight weeks prior to the scheduled dates for the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council.

The Committee welcomed the fruitful consultations on improved utilization between its Chairman and the President of the Council. It also welcomed the decision taken by the General Assembly in paragraph 40 of annex I to its resolution 50/227 of 24 May 1996, whereby the Council reduced its substantive session from five weeks to four weeks.

The Committee on Conferences recommends the adoption of the provisional calendar of conferences and meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Council for 1998-1999 as orally amended by the representative of the Secretariat.

In closing, I should like to express the Committee's appreciation of the Council's invitation to review its draft calendar of conferences and meetings, and of the continued close cooperation between the Economic and Social Council and the Committee on Conferences.

(Signed) Uldis BLUKIS
Chairman
Committee on Conferences